

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 585

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to urge President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress to prohibit the takeover of American ports by a foreign-owned and controlled company.

WHEREAS, it has recently been announced that officials in the Federal government have approved a sale that would turn over operations at six United States shipping ports to Dubai Ports World, a state-owned company in the United Arab Emirates; and

WHEREAS, under such contract the ports of New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Miami and New Orleans would be under operational control of the Dubai Ports World company; and

WHEREAS, according to published reports, U.S. ports handle 2.5 billion tons of cargo each year, accounting for more than 20 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and volume is expected to double by 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that each year over nine million freight containers arrive at U.S. ports but only a small percentage are physically inspected by customs officials, posing an ever increasing security threat. While scanning technology does exist, it is not available at all ports; and

WHEREAS, the security of the American people, the safety of the American shipping industry and the control of a very significant percentage of the American Gross Domestic Product is of extreme importance to the future of our great Nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress to prohibit the takeover of American ports by any foreign-owned and/or controlled companies or

corporations to ensure national security and the safety of the citizens of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and sent to President George W. Bush, each member of the U.S. Congressional Delegation from Tennessee, the Speaker and Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the U.S. Senate, and each member of the U.S. Congress.